

Church of God Evangel

December 20, 1952





Christmas Greetings . . .

Christmas is always a time of remembrance—a time of remembering things pleasant, a time for remembering old friends and new acquaintances, a time for remembering the blessings of our Lord, and the truth of His words.

May this Christmas remind you of Christ.

May each gift you receive remind you of the first Christmas gift: God's only begotten Son.

May each gift you give remind you of the gifts laid at the feet of the Infant by the adoring Shepherds and Wise Men.

May the cheerful, glowing lights remind you of the first Christmas light: Bethlehem's Star.

May each carol you hear remind you of the first Christmas carol: Angels proclaiming the birth of Christ.

May the holly with its green leaves and red berries remind you of a foreknown crown of thorns with red drops of atoning blood.

May the approach of even tide remind you of your place in church, to worship the child at Christmas.

May this greeting remind you that your Executive Committee wishes for you the MERRIEST CHRISTMAS and the HAPPIEST NEW YEAR you have ever known.—GENERAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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DECLARATION OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE

1. In the verbal inspiration of the Bible.
2. In one God eternally existing in three persons; namely, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
3. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary. That Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead; that He ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor.
4. That all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and that repentance is commanded of God for all and necessary for forgiveness of sins.
5. That justification, regeneration, and the new birth are wrought by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ.
6. In sanctification subsequent to the new birth, through faith in the blood of Christ; through the Word, and by the Holy Ghost.
7. Holiness to be God's standard of living for His people.
8. In the baptism of the Holy Ghost subsequent to a clean heart.
9. In speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, and that it is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost.
10. In water baptism by immersion, and all who repent should be baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
11. Divine healing is provided for all in the atonement.
12. In the Lord's Supper and washing of the saints' feet.
13. In the premillennial second coming of Jesus. First, to resurrect the righteous dead and to catch away the living saints to Him in the air. Second, to reign on the earth a thousand years.
14. In the bodily resurrection; eternal life for the righteous and eternal punishment for the wicked.

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IMPORTANT

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Editorials

Charles W. Conn

The God Man Has Made

SANTA CLAUS is coming to town! In fact, he has been in town quite awhile now, and loves it so much that he has decided to stay. He is growing fatter, more elaborate, more impish, and more attractive every year. Just give the jolly old fellow a little while longer, and he will have become so fat and pretentious he will crowd Christ right out of Christmas. To his shrine flock millions of worshipers every year, driven by his priests, commercialism's money-changers, and the doting parents who feel that "it is wrong to rob the children of their belief in Santa Claus." (Now, those of you who like to "ponder the imponderable," try to figure out how you can rob by simply refusing to tell a lie!)

I realize that not all who read this editorial will like it, for Jolly Saint Nick has his stout-hearted champions and worshipers everywhere. Some are going to consider me an "old fogey," or a "kill-joy," and some, a meddling blaster of dreams. It is not that I have never had any appreciation for Old Santa, for there was a time when the approach of Christmas filled me with tremulous excitement and anticipation as I waited for my rotund friend from the North Pole to squeeze down our chimney. Oh, I have read how Nicholas, a fourth century bishop of Myra, Asia Minor, gave treats to the children, and how, in his memory after he died, mothers told their children that good Nicholas might visit them again at Christ's mass. I know how he came to be celebrated by a feast on December 6, and was "regarded as a special friend and protector of children," and how the St. Nicholas dream grew into a legend, and how the legend finally metamorphosed into a myth.

I know how lovely and how tender and what a beautiful cloak of imagination the myth has become. I think I have adequate appreciation of Santa, along with Donner, Dancer, Prancer, Comet, Vixen and the other little deer, all the little elves and fairies—and oh yes, Rudolph!—and all the jolly crew. They are quite a lively company and have, by their cunning ways, wrested Christmas Day into their own hands. They fill your childish dreams with glee, the air with jolly good laughter, the streets with

singing, the mouths of Christians with difficulty, and the stores with customers. I trust that the defenders of Jolly Saint Nick will not be too severe in their criticism of me, and will carefully study the evaluation I have made of their idol and their myth.

A FEW days ago I was in a large department store with three of my little sons looking at the toys. Occasionally, I heard some child whimper or cry, but finally one youngster began to scream for all he was worth. I saw that his loving mother was prodding him and cajoling him into talking to Santa Claus. The child was plainly frightened, and his mother had quite a time getting him to sit on Santa's knee. Naturally, the mother was doing it for the child's own benefit—for, as we have already pointed out, many parents are so loving that they think it wrong not to give their children the pleasure of believing in Santa Claus. And, if the child is reluctant to believe, well—then it's just too bad for that young fellow. Mother loves Junior so much you know! Such nonsense! This lady was coercing her child to do something which he had no inclination to do, and was forcing upon him a faith that could bring only bitter disillusion in the end. A Christmas built on a mythical foundation is enjoyed even briefly through falsehood, and when the Santa Claus dream is shattered, Christmas joy is replaced with disillusion and discontent.

My objection to the Santa Claus myth, however, is not based entirely on the disillusion it brings to the hearts of the youngsters. This is a part of the objection, but a much more serious part is that it is a positive deviation from the truth. It just simply is not true—regardless of how we try to justify it by saying that Santa Claus is the personification of a spirit of giving and love. I recognize that these are ethical matters and that many people find some way to justify their violation of them.

There are eight children in our family, and I want to spare them the heartbreak of discovering that there is no Santa Claus. The only way I can spare them this childhood tragedy is to build their Christmas around the reality of Christ instead of forcing upon them an artificial faith in a mythical god. Good conscience forbids me this careless handling of the truth which I find difficult to discern from lying—and which would impair the confidence of my children in my honesty and trustworthiness. Still, there is another reason that Santa has become the greatest idol of this age and is replacing Christ in the very day that celebrates His birth.

CELEBRATION of Christmas means to many only a season in which they worship an imposter, a supplanter, a mythical god of Christmas. Notice these things carefully, and consider them seriously. There are *three divine attributes that only God possesses*. No mortal has ever possessed them, for they belong to God and God only. They are omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence.

Omniscience means that God knows all things. Neither the angels, nor the devils, nor any other natural or supernatural creature can lay claim to all knowledge. Yet, with unreasonable zeal, many Christian parents today readily declare to their children that "Santa knows all and sees all." Children are taught to be extra good just before Christmas or Santa Claus will not favor them with gifts on Christmas morning. Santa knows even the thoughts and intents of the heart. With childish faith, the chil-

dren sing:

*"You'd better watch out
You'd better not cry
You'd better not pout,
I'm telling you why,
Santa Claus is coming to town.
He knows when you are sleeping
He knows when you're awake
He knows if you've been bad or good
Do be good for goodness' sake,
Santa Claus is coming to town."*

Is it any wonder in later years that these same children will question us when we tell them that *God actually does see all and know all*? Oh, I know that we may explain to them that the parents are Santa Claus, and that we actually do see all and hear all our children do, but this is a subterfuge, a trick, and they will naturally suspect that some time in the future we will admit that we have tricked them again by telling them that God has all wisdom.

Omnipotence means that God has all power. He can do anything. God alone possesses all power, but yet we tell the people of our age that there is one other who can do all things. He can give you your heart's desire, or he can withhold it. He can satisfy everyone according to his will. Therefore, the children pray to him through their letters, sitting on his red-trousered knee in the presence of their doting parents who simply cannot rob their dears by telling them the truth. And, tragically, they often are encouraged to make actual prayerful solicitation at their bedside to Santa. Such profane mockery of real prayer!

Omnipresence means that God is everywhere. We know that this is something that no creature could possibly accomplish, but yet Santa Claus does it with the greatest of ease every Christmas Eve as in every cottage and mansion, in every apartment and every flat, on every farm and in every cabin, he makes his annual appearance. He is actually everywhere, from coast to coast, in every home of our land and in the homes of all other lands. His omnipresence is really an astonishing feat, for he is able to spend some time in every home; he manifests his omnipotence by carrying enough toys and treats for everyone and by finding entrance into every home; he manifests his omniscience by knowing just how many toys to leave in each home—and just the things that they wanted, too! Man made quite a god for his children when he made Santa Claus.

EVEN THOUGH Scripture declares that "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the father of lights," the multitudes blithely declare that our good things come from Santa. Christians should know that God is the Judge of good and evil, and the Rewarder of good, yet Santa Claus is made both lord and judge. He discerns between good and evil, and rewards those whom he deems worthy. When naughty children see that in the end Santa relents and brings them gifts, too, how can they then retain faith in the justice of God? How utterly this new god has usurped the divine nature of the true God!

Now, I'm not grumpy or surly; neither am I a dour and an unhappy soul. But I am jealous for our great God, and lament to see the very attributes that belong only to Him heaped with such reckless abandon upon a myth and an

CHRISTMAS

ROADBLOCK



imagination. Christians, it should not be so with us. Let your Christmas be built around Christ. Naturally, the children will want to know about Santa Claus, because they will see his picture everywhere; they will see him in the department stores; the radio will be filled with songs about him; and their schoolmates will speak lovingly of him. Tell them the story. Let them know how it came about. Let them know all about the Santa Claus story—but also carefully point out that it is only imagination or play. Let them know that it is all in fun, and that there is no such actual person. They can enjoy knowing about him as much as believing in him, and will never experience the emotional upset of a blasted dream and a vanished hope.

Naturally, the attempts are subtle and disarming, to profane what, with Easter, should be the greatest of Christian observances. Too much commercialization, too much insincere ado, too profligate giving, and too much artificiality threaten to rob from Christmas its last vestige of Christian significance. It should be a day of joy and happiness in the Lord, unmarred and untainted by pagan superficiality. Let us sing and be glad. Let us give and rejoice. But by no means let us allow Christ to be replaced by a mythical god of Christmas, or let the spirit of giving degenerate into a spirit of extravagance.

Bastian Kruthof has said in *The Lively Pilgrim*, "It would be difficult to think away the spirit and practice of giving at Christmas time. These two are rays of the shining ideal. Of course, there is the danger of excess. Too much and too careless giving loses the intended effect. Commercialization, if it could, would have the angels singing in store windows, so the supreme gift is often forgotten. However, giving is of the very spirit of the Child in the manger, and gifts warm the heart. Beautifully wrapped packages make children of us all, stirring the desire for exploration and discovery, and they make grown-ups of us all, emphasizing concretely the undying truth that 'the gift without the giver is bare.'"

The Real Meaning of

CHRISTMAS

By ARTHUR BRYANT



SOON IT WILL be Christmas. In millions of homes across the country families and kinsmen will sit down together, eat a little more than is good for them and make merry. There will be a slight, temporary, yet perceptible all-round rising of the temperature of human kindliness.

What does it all mean? For a minority, Christmas is a religious commemoration, the highlight of the Christian year. For a majority, it is merely a feast and a holiday, and is kept by them because their fathers kept it, because their earliest memories of celebration and family reunion go back to Christmas Day.

The "Christian myth": that is how "clever" men refer to the body of Christian belief out of which the Christmas feast rises. But before we dismiss the "myth" there are certain historical facts which we should do well to remember.

The first is that on a specific day there was born in the manger of a poor inn in Judea a child called Jesus. He was not a prince or a statesman or a warrior. He was not a member of a conquering race; He wrote no book, raised no artistic monument. His years on earth were few and lived out in a poor, obscure, conquered province. He was regarded by cultivated and educated contemporaries as a person of no consequence. As a matter of prosaic history, it is to celebrate this man's birth that we sit down to eat roast fowl and plum pudding. It takes, one might think, much explanation.

The theological interpretation put by churches and scholars on Christ's reported words has varied in all ages and varies to this day. What there never has been any doubt about is that those who knew Christ best during His life, and particularly after His terrible and agonizing death, became convinced that He both was and knew Himself to be more than man. He believed He was the Son of God, and He succeeded, in the teeth of every opposition, ridicule, and persecution, in communicating that belief to others.

WHAT JESUS did caused men to worship what He was. For what He *did* created in those who were witnesses of it—and in those who came to learn of it only

by hearsay—a conviction of what He *was*. The conviction was so intense that they regarded His existence on earth as infinitely the most important thing that had ever happened. Not only did they try to alter their own lives—to live, however unsuccessfully, as He had lived—but in many cases they deliberately elected to die as He had died. This is not a myth; it is fully documented history. It happened, and nothing can alter the fact.

For this wonderful man, whom those of us who call ourselves Christians believe to have been more than man, possessed an attribute which we know from our own experience to be utterly beyond the capacity of human nature. He possessed an infinite capacity for love that enabled Him to regard and treat every other being's personality, need and suffering as though they were His own. He did not love only individually and spasmodically, as all human beings at times do, even the worst and most selfish; He loved so much that all human suffering and need mattered to Him.

Moral perfection is incompatible with human nature.

For if a perfect man existed in a world such as ours, he would die of horror and compassion at the terrible things that happen in it every second. However tender and loving, however shaken and moved by the sufferings and tragedies that affect them personally, men and women instinctively close their hearts to other tragedies every whit as great as their own and those immediately around them. A perfect being would not shut his heart in self-protection. He would suffer with others and give himself unceasingly to relieve and succor them.

The whole meaning of Christmas, the miracle of Christ's birth—and death—is that once and once only in human history there was such a being. He so loved His fellow men that His whole life was dedicated without the least alloy of self to the relief and service of all those who stood in need of them.

He left us two commandments: that we should love God—whose nature He revealed to us by His own—with all our being; and that we should love our neighbor as ourselves. However far we are from fulfilling either, we, all of us, as a result of Christ's life, come, at Christmas, for a moment, a little nearer to both.—*The Illustrated London News*.

POETRY Can Bless You

By M. M. MORTENSON
Pastor, Anawalt, West Virginia



OR AN EXAMPLE OF POETRY that can bless you, let us note the mystical Christocentric song of "the poet's poet" Edmund Spenser (of FAERY QUEEN fame) in his: "AN HYMN OF HEAVENLY LOVE." This poem should be read aloud, especially every Christmas, if not oftener. It consists of only 286 lines, which fall into an invocation and three parts.

The invocation prays Love to be lifted up above earthly loves to behold things not seen by mortals, and it loathes other earlier written songs of love.

"Love, lift me up upon thy golden wings,
From this base world unto thy heaven's height,
Where I may see those adorable things
Which there thou workest with thy sovereign might,
Far above feeble reach of earthly sight,
That I thereof an heavenly hymn may sing
Unto the God of Love, high heaven's King."

I

The first part is a review by Spenser in terms of Plato's TIMAEUS and SYMPOSIUM how, before the world were made, God created the Son and Spirit through love.

"BEFORE THIS WORLD'S GREAT FRAME, in which all things

Are now contain'd, found any being-place,
Ere flitting Time could wag his eyas wings
About that mighty bound which doth embrace
The rolling spheres, and parts their hours by space,
That High Eternal Pow'r, which now doth move
In all these things, moved in itself by love.

"It loved Itself, because Itself was fair;
(For fair is loved;) and of Itself begot,
Like to Itself, His eldest son and heir,
Eternal, pure, and void of sinful blot,
The firstling of His joy in whom no jot
Of love's dislike or pride was to be found,
Whom He, therefore, with equal honor crown'd."

Then the angels came into being, and a portion of them fell through pride and were cast into hell.

"Yet full of beauty, next He did beget
An infinite increase of angels bright,
All glist'ring glorious in their Maker's light . . .

"But pride, impatient of long resting peace,
Did puff them up with greedy bold ambition,
That they can cast their state how to increase
Above the fortune of their first condition,
And sit in God's own seat without commission:
The brightest angel, even the Child of Light,
Drew millions more against their God to fight.

"Th' Almighty, seeing their so bold assay,
Kindled the flame of His consuming ire.
And with His only breath them blew away
From heaven's height, to which they did aspire,
To deepest hell, and lake of damned fire,
Where they in darkness and dread horror dwell,
Hating the happy light from which they fell."

Man is next created, who also falls, but God, through the love of Christ, comes to redeem him.

"Therefore of clay, base, vile, and next to naught,
Yet form'd by wondrous skill, and by His might,
According to an heavenly pattern wrought,
Which He had fashion'd in His wise foresight,
He man did make, and breath'd a living spright
Into his face most beautiful and fair,
Endued with wisdom's riches, heavenly, rare . . .

"But man, forgetful of his Maker's grace
No less than angels whom he did ensue,
Fell from the hope of promised heavenly place,
Into the mouth of death, to sinners due,
And all his offspring into thralldom threw,
Where they for ever should in bonds remain
Of never-dead yet-dying pain . . .

"Out of the bosom of eternal bliss,
In which He reigned with His glorious Sire,
He down descended, like a most demiss,
And abject thrall, in flesh's frail attire,
That He for him might pay sin's deadly hire,
And him retore unto the happy state
In which he stood before his hapless fate . . .

"And that most blessed body which was born
Without all blemish or reproachful blame,
He freely gave to be both rent and torn
Of cruel hands, who with spiteful shame
Reviling Him, that them most vile became,
At length Him nailed on a gallow tree,
And slew the Just by most unjust decree."

II

The second part is an impassioned apostrophe to the immeasurable Well of love—Christ Jesus. It asks no return for His love but to love Him and our brethren for His sake.

"O blessed Well of Love! O Flow'r of Grace!
O glorious Morning-Star! O Lamp of Light!
Most lively image of thy Father's face,
Eternal King of Glory, Lord of Might,
Meek Lamb of God, before all worlds benight,
How can we Thee requite for all this good?
Or what can price that Thy most precious blood?

"Yet nought Thou ask'st in lieu of all this love,
But love of us, for guerdon of Thy pain;
Ay me! what can us less than that behove?
Had He required life of us again,
Had it been wrong to ask His own with gain?
He gave us life, He it restored lost;
Then life were least, that us so little cost.

"But He our life hath left unto us free,
Free that was thrall, and blessed that was bann'd;
He aught demands but that we loving be,
As He Himself hath loved us aforehand,
And bound thereto with an eternal band,
Him first to love that was so deeply bought,
And next our brethren, to His image wrought."

III

The third part beseeches us to think upon and to review the life and sacrifice of our Lord for us until all earth's glory seems but 'dirt and dross' as we gaze upon His Light which blinds all human sight.

"Then rouse thyself, O Earth, out of thy soll,
In which thou wallowest like to filthy swine,
And dost thy mind in dirty pleasures moll,
Unmindful of that dearest Lord of thine;
Lift up to Him thy heavy clouded eyen,
That thou His sovereign bounty mayst behold,
And read through love His mercies manifold.

"Begin from first, where He encradled was
In simple cratch, wrapped in a wad of hay,
Between the toilful ox and humble ass,
And in what rags, and in how base array,
The glory of our heavenly riches lay,
When Him the silly shepherds came to see,
Whom greatest princes sought on lowest knee.

"From thence read on the story of His life,
His humble carriage, His unfaultry ways,
His cancered foes, His fights, His toll, His strife,
His pains, His poverty, His sharp assays
Through which He pass'd His miserable days,
Offending none, and doing good to all,
Yet being malic'd both of great and small.

"And look at last, how of most wretched wights (persons),
He taken was, betray'd, and false accused;
How with most scornful taunts, and fell despites,
He was revill'd, disgrac'd and foul abused,
How scourg'd, how crown'd, how buffeted, how bruised;
And laastly, how 'twixt robbers crucified,
With bitter wounds through hands, through feet, and side.

"Then let thy flinty heart, that feels no pain,
Emplered be with pitiful remorse,
And let thy bowels bleed in every vein,
At sight of His most sacred heavenly corpse,
So torn and mangled with malicious force,
And let thy soul, whose sins His sorrows wrought,
Melt into tears, and groan in grieved thought.

"With sense whereof whilst so thy softened spirit
Is inly touch'd, and humbled with meek zeal,
Through meditation of His endless merit,
Lift up thy mind to th' Author of thy weal,
And to His sovereign mercy do appeal,
Learn Him to love, that loved thee so dear,
And in thy breast His blessed image bear.



"Th' Almighty, seeing their so bold
assay,
Kindled the flame of His consuming
ire.
And with His only breath them
blew away
From heaven's height, to which they
did aspire,

"With all thy heart, with all thy soul and mind,
Thou must Him love, and His behests embrace;
All other loves, with which the world doth blind
Weak fancies, and stir up affection base,
Thou must renounce, and utterly displace,
And give thyself unto Him full and free,
That full and freely gave Himself to thee.

"Then shalt thou feel thy spirit so possess'd,
And ravish'd with devouring great desire
Of His dear self, that shall thy feeble breast
Inflame with love, and set thee all on fire
With burning zeal, through every part entire,
That in no earthly thing thou shalt delight,
But in His sweet and amiable sight.

"Thenceforth all the world's desire will in thee die,
And all earth's glory, on which men do gaze,
Seem dirt and dross in thy pure sighted eye,
Compar'd to that celestial beauty's blaze,
Whose glorious beams all fleshly sense doth daze
With admiration of their passing light,
Blinding the eyes and lumining the spright.

"Then shall thy ravish'd soul inspired be
With heavenly thoughts, far above human skill,
And thy bright radiant eyes shall plainly see
Th' idee of His pure glory present still
Before thy face, that all thy spirits shall fill
With sweet enagement of celestial love,
Kindled through sight of those fair things above."

Edmund Spenser must surely have first felt the experience within his own heart before he could write such advice which moves our hearts to deepest gratitude, accompanied with tears running down from our eyes.

Indeed! Poetry can bless you.



The CHRIST of BETHLEHEM

By MRS. RUTH STARNES

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord," Luke 2:11.



THE STORY OF THE BIRTH of our Lord Jesus Christ is an old and familiar one, yet it is ever new. When we go to the Bethlehem manger and see the Infant Christ, we see God's great plan, before the world was, coming to maturity. The birth of Christ into the world was unique in the history of the race. We began our existence at birth, but He lived from all eternity! The angel of God had declared to Mary that she had found favor with God, and that she would bring forth a Son whose name would be called Jesus, for He would be a Saviour to the world. The angel further declared that Jesus would reign over the house of Jacob forever, and there would be no end to His kingdom. Mary did not understand how these things could be, but the angel said to her, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the son of God," Luke 1:35. After these words, Mary became submissive to the message sent by the angel.

Later, when Mary visited Elizabeth, she uttered a song of praise that surely was given under divine inspiration. In Luke 1:46-55, Mary said, "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden; for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent away empty. He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; as he spake to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever." What wonderful prophecy is contained in these words.

AT THE TIME OF CHRIST'S BIRTH, Augustus Caesar was emperor of Rome, and Herod the Great was king of Judea but subject to Rome. God's providence had prepared the world for His coming, and this was the most fitting time in all history for His birth. All the world was subject to one government, so that the apostles could travel everywhere. The door of every land was open for the gospel. The world was at peace, so the gospel could have free course. The Greek language was spoken everywhere, with their other languages, so the apostles could be well understood. The Roman dominion was galling. The people of God were subject to a foreign yoke. The taxes were heavy. Roman soldiers, laws, money, and bondage

ever reminded the people of their subjection, when, according to Old Testament prophets, they ought to be free and themselves rulers of the world. The Jewish hopes of a Redeemer, of throwing off their bondage, of becoming the glorious nation promised in the prophets, was in the very air one breathed.

The prophet Micah prophesied many years before Christ came that He would be born in Bethlehem. Micah 5:2, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been of old, from everlasting." Bethlehem was one of the most ancient cities of Palestine, already in existence at the time of Jacob's return to the country. Bethlehem signifies "house of bread." What a proper place for Him to be born who is the Bread of Life! It was called Ephratah, which means fruitful. It was a shepherd town. As the plains were always anciently cultivated, it was on the hillsides that shepherds grazed their flocks. There were many historical events connected with the city of Bethlehem. Here David was born and Saul resided. It was Rachel's burying place. The book of Ruth is a page from the domestic history of Bethlehem, for it was here Ruth gleaned in the fields of Boaz. It was the scene of the ministry of Isaiah and Jeremiah. Fifteen miles to the south was Hebron, the home of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. So we see that many notable things were found at Bethlehem.

At the time of Jesus' birth, Caesar Augustus had sent out a decree that all the world should be taxed. He did this either to gratify his pride in knowing the numbers of his people or to strengthen his interest and make his government more secure. But God had another reason, that Scripture might be fulfilled concerning Christ's birth. Many times God orders things for the fulfillment of the scriptures and causes men to make use of things they have for their own purpose to serve His will. Mary and Joseph were of the house and lineage of David, so it was necessary for them to go to Bethlehem to enroll. In this way the decree of the Roman emperor helped the fulfillment of God's Word.

"And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child," Luke 2:4, 5. The fulness of time had now come when God would send forth His Son into the world. That night the city was crowded with people who had come for the great taxation. Joseph sought a room for his wife, but all the rooms were full; Joseph

and Mary were forced to share the shelter of the beasts of burden. It was time for Mary to be delivered of her child, so Christ was born that night in the manger and wrapped in swaddling clothes, because there was no room for them in the inn.

OUT ON A HILLSIDE a little to the east of Bethlehem a few humble shepherds were keeping night watch over their sheep, leading the flock away from the danger of the rugged precipice and protecting them from robbers and beasts. These shepherds must have been devout Jews, and perhaps they talked of the coming Messiah as they watched their sheep that night. They might have said one to the other that little Bethlehem of Judea, their own village, plainly visible in the bright night, was to be highly honored, for had not the prophet said that out of her would come a Governor who would rule the people? As they talked among themselves, suddenly a dazzling light came pouring down upon them, and with it came a angel bringing a message most strangely sweet—tidings of the Saviour's birth. The angel was joined by an innumerable host of heavenly beings who praised God, saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward man!" After the heavenly host departed the shepherds set out to find the newborn King.

"And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them," Luke 2:16-20. Thus we see the love of God manifested in giving His only Son as a Saviour to the world.

The most wonderful thing in the world is the love of God. That God should love the good we can understand. But that God should love the vile, the outcast, the worthless, the vicious, the criminal, that is the thing that is hard to understand, yet the Bible tells us it is true. The object of God's love is the world, men of all races, men of all classes. God's attitude toward His Son is love, yet God gave the Son who from all eternity had been the object of His delight, for the world—for you and me. This is perhaps the most remarkable statement the world has ever heard, but still it is true.

An old blacksmith was once trying to read John 3:16. When he came to the word "whosoever," his knowledge of letters failed him, and he could not make the word out. He read, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that—," and then he desired so much to know the next word. He laid his Bible aside awaiting his daughter's return from school. He put his finger on the word when she came in and said, "What is this, daughter?" She said, "It is 'whosoever,' and it means me, or you, or anybody else." He clapped his finger down on the word as though it might get away, and said, "Thank God that means me!" That word is still in the verse today, and its meaning has not changed. Any person, regardless of their station in life, is included in the plan of salvation. By accepting the sacrifice of the Son of God on the cross, we too can receive a born-again experience, which is our rightful heritage.

WHEN WE GO TO BETHLEHEM and see the Infant Christ, we see the Gift of God to the world. The supreme gift of the Son was that He gave His life as an atonement for the sins of the world. Sin and death were linked together in the beginning. When Adam sinned, the human race passed under condemnation; but Jesus came to rescue us. The happiness of man lies in an acquaintance with God. There is no comfortable intercourse between a Holy God and sinful man but in and by a mediator. Christ is our Mediator. As a human He reaches down to our nature, sympathizes with us, shows us that God knows our feelings and brings God near to us. It is through Christ we receive forgiveness of sins. He became our Sin-bearer, and He does forgive sin when men repent and seek Him.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6. The child born—the Son given. Here is the sum of all prophecy. Christ made Himself of no reputation, but took upon Him the form of a servant. He became a partaker of flesh and blood that through death He might destroy the devil and deliver lost mankind. Hebrews 2:17, "Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren that he might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people." Great is the mystery of godliness! What man can fathom the greatness of God?

The angel brought good tidings of great joy when he announced the birth of Christ. Every person is made happy by good tidings but sorrowful by bad tidings. We are living in days of evil tidings, days when men's hearts are failing them for fear of things that shall come to pass on the earth. The majority of people do not include God and His Son in their lives. Sin and sorrow are abundant in our land. To get full benefit from the proclamation of great joy, one must surrender all to God. It is to the weary and heavy laden that Christ offers rest. Samuel Rutherford once said that when he found himself in the cellars of affliction, he looked around for the King's wine. He looked for the wine bottles of the promises that he might drink rich draughts of vitalizing grace. This same man used to counsel his Christian friends, who, he knew, were heirs of God and joint heirs of Jesus Christ, to take a run around their estate to see the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.

We are living at a time when the religions and philosophies of all ages and all lands are being brought together for comparison. What a tangle there seems to be! Within Christianity itself there seems to be a conflict of rival theologies. Men's minds are confused. Where is the truth to be found? Thank God, Jesus said, "I am the *way*, the *truth*, and the *life*!" If we are in Christ, we are in the right way; we can know the truth; and we have life through Him.

"Truth lies in character. Christ did not simply speak the truth; He was truth, for truth is a thing not of words, but of life and being."—Robertson. "The finest and noblest ground on which people can live is truth, the real with the real, a ground on which nothing is assumed."—Emerson. "Religious truth, touch what parts of it you will, has always to do with the being and government of God

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Unto You . . .

By CHARLES W. CONN
Editor-in-Chief

FOR MORE THAN a millennium the people of Israel had looked for their Messiah. Through all the perplexities of the years their one hope had been that He would soon appear. That kept them alive. That kept spirit in their souls. When a foreign kind scourged them, they remembered that their King would finally reign. When despair clouded their days, they yearned for the Sun of His Brightness. When false teachers led them astray, they remembered that He would instruct them. When bonds calloused them, they knew that He would eventually set them free. When they sagged in death, they remembered that His coming would revive them. Israel had one hope: their Messiah would set everything aright.

When the fulness of time had come, He came—not astride a pawing beast with fire snorting from its nostrils, nor yet erect in a chariot of fire with a gleaming sword in His hand; not even riding a beam of light with clustered stars for His crown. The heavens did not deliver Him with a blast from a million trumpets at the lips of the angels. He lay in a manger: a round, lovable Baby, surrounded by a tender mother, whose soft eyes stroked every line of His face with adoring caresses, and a beaming father, whose adoration and wonder were written in the deep furrows of his face. The mute beasts, whose privacy had been lost with the intrusion of this newborn Stranger, were impercipient of His greatness, and could not know that their stall had been glorified that night. They could not know that they had witnessed the greatest event of all time, and that they were hosts to One whose greatness would diminish the greatness of all other great men into nothingness. Joy to the world! A KING IS BORN! THE LORD HAS COME!

Silhouetted against a wine-blue sky, with stars bubbling over their shoulders, was a company of shepherds. Sleeping around them were their sheep. For some strange reason, sleep had suddenly departed from the keepers of the flocks; they sat bolt erect. Was that music? Distant, euphonious pealing? Yes! Music! Let the superb, inimitable beauty of the Bible tell its own story.

"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory

of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Then the celestial spectacle vanished and the music faded into the stillness of the night.

TWO THINGS which the angel said were strange. The Jews were looking for *their* Messiah, yet the angel said, "... which shall be unto ALL PEOPLE." It was Israel who had prophesied of Him, and it was through Israel that He was to come. It was Israel who had suffered through long years of waiting, and it was Israel who had thought of Him night and day. And now comes a revolutionary announcement, "unto ALL PEOPLE." The angel also said, "Unto YOU is born . . . a Saviour." It was not "unto Mary"; not "unto the Jews," but unto YOU! The entire world is in the scope of that announcement. It is an individual opportunity and a universal privilege. No man shall ever be barred from the saving grace of this Saviour. He is born unto the world. Mary bore Him, Israel was His heritage, but the world was His objective.

This was strange. The Jews had always been bigoted and selfish about their Jehovah (Yahweh), and they had no intention of sharing their Messiah. Rather, they expected Him to heap wrath and vengeance upon the heads of their beleaguered enemies. The Greeks could have their Zeus, the Romans could have their Jupiter, the barbarians could have their Wodan and Thor, the others could have their gods, but the Messiah, when He came, was to belong to the Jews. Yet His birth is announced in words which admit the entire earth into His bountiful mercies. So jealous were the Jews of their God, that Jonah preferred to exile himself to Spain rather than preach to the Gentile city Nineveh. They would be equally jealous of their Christ.

In the magnitude of their suffering, the Israelites forgot that others were suffering, too. Hopeless pagans grasped anything that held even faint hope for them: idols of wood, altars of sacrifice, temples to vain desire. Gentile nations longed equally with the Jews for a Messiah, but their hopes and aspirations were ill-directed

*"For unto you is born this day in the city of David,
a Saviour which is Christ the Lord," Luke 2:11.*



and frustrated by spiritual ignorance. The gropings of the Gentiles had always been in search of the true God; they wanted to know the way back to Him. They had yearned, too, for deliverance from their blindness. Their local deities had not satisfied them; they needed God—and a Guide to lead them to Him.

And now He is born. "Unto YOU." Gallilean shepherds, He is yours; come and behold Him. Persian Wise Men, He is yours, too; come and adore Him. Yea, the whole benighted world, at one in sin, are free to know the redeeming mercy of Almighty God. Was this to mean some international, universal monotheism? That was precisely the dream of Jesus. The whole earth was to be His footstool, His inheritance, not just one little troubled corner lying east of the Mediterranean. And thus were all the days of Jesus spent—for YOU.

Could Christ refuse the Gentiles? They needed a Saviour, too. Even old Simeon adored Him as "a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel." He was born for us. He is ours. No longer would there be Jew and Gentile; there would be a common religion for a common people—Christianity. Did He not heal the Gentile as well as the Jew? At His death did He not pray for the forgiveness of the Roman as well as the Jew? Did He limit the ultimate commission to His disciples to the confines of Israel, or did He charge them, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations . . ."? This was the very thing the whole world had waited for—Rome, Greece, Gaul, Spain, Egypt, Britannia—EVERY MAN! These were strange doings in Israel. Strange, indeed. They wanted THEIR Messiah.

I. UNTO MARY: A BABE

MARY'S possession was a babe. It would be difficult to believe that Jesus was not every whit a normal, excellent child. The dubious apocryphal accounts of His childhood are not always in keeping with His later nature. That He wasted His powers and gifts by causing clay birds to fly, and doing other legendary feats, is highly improbable. No doubt, the revelation to Him of His divine nature and purpose was gradual, though early, and was not heralded by premature exhibitions of divine power. His works were always purposeful, the products of a mature and divine mind. Doubtlessly, He physically led a normal, human life during His formative years, else His recognition would have come earlier, but as an infant wonder-worker and magician and not the Christ of God. It is more plausible that He lived with Mary and Joseph in normal family relationship.

Whether or not Jesus received a formal or literary education we do not know, but we do know that His words



were spiced with much contemporary knowledge and historical lore. We know that He was following Joseph in carpentry as His material vocation (Mark 6:3, "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary . . .?"). His family life was communal, for He had about four brothers and several sisters. That they respected Him and were influenced by Him is borne out by the fact that they became His disciples—and leaders in the early church.

Mary knew from the beginning that her son was really the Son of God, the Messiah. Perhaps she was at all times reconciled to the fate that must be His, but probably not. She sought to protect Him with her frail, womanly strength instead of trusting Him to allow what physical harm to Himself that He would. Every hint of His family life is that it was normal and communal with Joseph and Mary and His brothers and sisters. He was Mary's child, and that was her only exclusive claim to Him. He was no

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A MOTHER'S SOLILOQUY

Maifred B. Hunt

*I thank thee Father when Christmas comes
For all the little dolls and drums,
For cluttered corner and creaking stair—
For signs of children everywhere.*

*My neighbor's house is straight and prim,
But oh, Dear God, I pity him!
No child to scatter treasured toys,
No rumpled rooms, no mirthful noise.*

*I would not want a house so neat,
That showed no print of little feet,
And so each year when Christmas comes
I thank Thee for the dolls and drums.*



Christmas and the Home

By Edna Conn



AS THE CHRISTMAS season approaches we begin to feel more of what is commonly called "the Christmas spirit." It would be very difficult to give a definition of

this term which would describe its meaning to the satisfaction of all; yet, each of us has felt the warmth of heart which comes at this season, and we know exactly what it means.

In the commercial world today, Christmas is looked forward to as a time for increased business. It is welcomed because the added buying during the season brings much in financial gains. Although we may enjoy the bustling, happy activity of a day of Christmas shopping, we know that our shopping could be done and still we would never realize the presence of a true Christmas spirit. Accelerated selling and buying are only the by-products, a result of the feeling of the season. The Christmas spirit can be just as prevalent without them.

Many times I have heard the expression "Christmas is for children." Truly much of our pleasure would not be as keen as it is if we were not able to see the wonder and glory of it in the happiness of children. The faith and joy of little children is a beautiful part of Christmas. But there is danger in this very faith when the true faith in the Christ Child is sup-

planted by faith in a mythical 'Santa Claus.' When a child is taught to base the anticipations and joys of Christmas on Santa Claus, he is being built up to a great disappointment and a realization that he has been deceived. On the other hand, if he is taught to base his faith on things that are true, his pleasure will be just as real, and the glory of it will not have to be ended with an abrupt discovery of the fact that 'there is no Santa Claus.' Any faith that is built on Christ is lasting and need not suffer disillusionment. Yes, the true spirit of Christmas can be experienced without a child's belief in the reality of Santa Claus.

The Christmas Spirit is an age-old overflow of God's love in the hearts of men. God manifested His love to us in the gift of His Son. On the memorable night of the Christ Child's birth, angels sang their joyful praise of peace on earth, good will toward men—another message of love. Because Christ loved enough to give His life, we can have His love in our hearts today. During the Yuletide season the Christian heart somehow feels an increased glow of the love that has been kindled there by the grace of God. When we remember His birthday, we somehow take on a little more of the likeness of His spirit. We have a greater desire to do something to manifest Christian love and compas-

CHRISTMAS EVE AT HOME

Grace Noll Crowell

*Let us forget for a little while tonight
The clamor of the world, its wild unrest,*

*And let us set a candle with its light
Upon a sill, and know how very blest
Is any home, though humble it may be,*

*If Christ be worshipped, and if love
be there—*

*In a Christian land where people may
be free*

To live and labor, and to love and share.

Oh, blest indeed, are they on Christmas Eve

Whose roofs are snug, whose fires are warmly red;

Where excited, eager children turn and leave

A room reluctantly, to go to bed;

And blest are they whose hands reach up to trim

Some small spruce tree whose branches soon will glow

*With lovely light in memory of Him
Who came to light the whole world long ago.*

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sion to those about us. Even those who do not know Him as their personal Saviour have, to this extent, felt the influence of His example of selflessness.

The Christian mother and homemaker has a special privilege and opportunity to place the proper emphasis on the Christ-centered Christmas. In the hustle and bustle of our modern-day activities, we could become careless and fail to keep the true concept of Christ's birthday before our children. Let us take care lest the many extra household tasks and natural responsibilities rob us of the heightened feeling of thanksgiving and worship that so rightfully belong in our hearts and homes at this time.

A FEW DAYS ago I overheard our children discussing what they liked best about Christmas. One of the boys very eagerly stated that he liked 'our Christmas Eve' best of all. When the eldest of our eight children was just old enough to participate, we began a family observance

of Christmas Eve which has become a tradition with us. At this time we light the house with candles and gather around a festive table loaded with fruit, nuts, cakes, and assorted Christmas dainties. Following the simple repast, we enjoy a Christmas program arranged by one or more of the children who have been appointed master of ceremonies well enough ahead for adequate preparation. The emphasis is entirely upon the spirit and significance of the true Christmas. All of this is interspersed with the singing of hymns and climaxed by the reading of the Christmas story from God's Word. This vital part of our program brings with it a wonderful spirit of the silent, holy night which we commemorate. The children laughingly agree that sharing Christmas goodies with us on this occasion is far better than being told that 'Santa Claus' ate them while they were asleep. They retire from this gathering with a sense of loving and being loved, and an unexcelled eagerness for the long-looked-for arrival of Christmas morning.

When it is so natural for a child to open his heart to a love of holy things, let us be careful to keep those things before him. In later years his most treasured remembrances of Christmas will probably be those of home and of the seasonal atmosphere there. Those spiritual impressions created in his

heart now will live on in the heart of the man (or woman) that he will become. If we can only give him Christ in the home, we shall find that we have also given him joy, love, and a true Christmas spirit.

GIFTS

Isla P. Richardson

*What shall we give the children?
Christmas is almost here.
Toys, and games, and playthings,
As we do every year?*

*Yes, for the magic of toyland
Is part of the Yuletide lore,
To gladden the heart of childhood.
But I shall give something more.*

*I shall give them more patience,
A more sympathetic ear,
A little more time for laughter,
Or tenderly dry a tear.*

*I shall take time to teach them
The joy of doing some task.
I'll try to find time to answer
More of the questions they ask;*

*Time to read books together,
And take long walks in the sun;
Time for a bedtime story
After the day is done.*

*I shall give these to my children,
Weaving a closer tie,
Knitting our lives together
With gifts that money can't buy.
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My son, S. Sgt. Fred Wade Wall, is in charge of base in Korea, and writes that he will be moving to front line. Please pray for him. His address is S. Sgt. Fred Wade Wall, AF 14332201-6512nd A. B. Sq., A. P. O. 970, c/o Post Master, San Francisco, California.



Pvt. Donald L. Harne entered the service February 14, 1952. He took his basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, and is now serving in Korea. He is a Christian and member of the Church of God. He requests that all Christians pray for him and the other boys in Korea. His address is Pvt. Donald L. Harne, U. S. 52135354, Co. E, 180 Inf. Regt., 45th Inf. Division, A. P. O. 86, San Francisco, California.



Cpl. James R. Morris, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Morris of Talledega, Alabama, entered the armed forces in April, 1951. He took his basic training at Fort Hood, Texas, and is now serving in Korea.

Brother Morris is a member of the Church of God in Talledega, Alabama, and was an active member in church work before entering service. He desires a special interest in your prayers for his safe return home, and that God will direct his life's work.



Our son, Pvt. Edwin D. Miller, entered service February 18, 1952. He is now stationed in Germany, and he sends in a special request for prayer. Everyone please pray for him to be saved and that God will protect him and bring him safely home. His address is Pvt. Edwin D. Miller, US 53117552, Hq. and Hq. Company, 12 Inf. Regt., APO 39, c/o Post Master, New York, New York. He would appreciate hearing from any of the Evangel readers.—Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Miller, Sealy, North Carolina.

REVIVALS TELEGRAM

JUST CLOSED GREAT REVIVAL AT ALABAMA CITY LARGE CROWDS 31 SAVED, 18 SANCTIFIED, 15 BAPTIZED WITH HOLY GHOST, 27 JOINED CHURCH. ROLAND VERRICO, EVANGELIST; L. H. AULTMAN, PASTOR.

EDGEHILL, Georgia—A great revival is in progress at Edgehill, Georgia, with Rev. P. S. Collins as evangelist. Thirty-nine have been saved, 32 filled with the Holy Ghost, and 20 added to the Church. We are entering the second week of the revival, and the Lord is still blessing in a great way.—B. G. Moxley, Pastor.

Man and missions

from the
Foreign Missions Executive Secretary's Desk
PAUL H. WALKER
1080 Montgomery Avenue, Cleveland, Tennessee

GIFTS FOR CHRIST AT CHRISTMAS

WE HAVE MAILED to all the members of the EVANGEL family a special letter from our office, signed by the General Overseer, the Foreign Mission Field Representative, and the Executive Missions Secretary. In this letter we have embodied suggested items to which you can contribute a love gift in behalf of our mission cause on the foreign fields for Christmas.

I am sure the readers of the EVANGEL, realizing the great strides the mission cause is making, also realize we must keep this good work going, for the end time of the age is near, and the coming of Jesus is at hand. We must carry the gospel to every door, to every nook, to every corner throughout this great world of ours, so men may hear. Yes, we must, those of this dispensation must, preach the gospel through the dispensation in which they live; so a gift for Christ for Christmas certainly would be in order.

In the event you do not receive one of these special letters, and perchance may read this article, wouldn't you be glad and feel that you had rendered a real service to God if you would send a special contribution to the mission cause? You may send it to 1080 Montgomery Avenue, Cleveland, Tennessee. We will send you a letter of acknowledgment, and every penny will go for the salvation of the lost in foreign lands.

So, dear reader, when your letter comes to you, as a subscriber to the EVANGEL, in behalf of a contribution as a gift for Christ for Christmas, do not brush it aside lightly, but give it serious consideration and prayer, coupled with a heart full of love for what God has done for you. I'm sure you will be willing to pro-

mote His cause that you might be a blessing for Him, that He might be a blessing to others, and eternity on the streets of gold in an eternal city will determine your reward, worlds without end.

SISTER STARK OF ANGOLA, AFRICA, REPAID

MANY WILL REMEMBER that when the Jamaica, storm swept the Island, and all the churches were destroyed and there was such a great damage done, Sister Stark had saved up \$100 for a refrigerator, and when she heard of this catastrophe she mailed the \$100 she had saved to the suffering in the Island of Jamaica.

Two good Church of God sisters, Sister Hill and Sister Kembrough, were stirred in their hearts because of this sacrifice, and they started a campaign to raise the amount to repay Sister Stark. They went to the camp meeting with some little banks and solicited the many friends of the mission cause, and soon the money was raised. The response to this worthy cause was \$108, which will be sent to Sister Stark immediately.

Thanks, Pastor Joseph Duffell, 2242 Broadway, San Diego, California, for your cooperation in your part of the Lord's work, also.—P. H. W.

ROME, GEORGIA, HAS MISSION ZEAL

THE FINE pastor, Reverend Paul Stover, came to the office and reported a great home-coming day they had in Rome, Georgia. Through the dedicated efforts of their good people, they raised a foreign missions offering in the amount of \$1,200 cash.

The Executive Missions Secretary was privileged to pay them a visit on November 2 to compliment them on their effort, and they responded again in the amount of \$1,000. This \$2,200

from this church certainly bespeaks the fine work of a loyal group of people and is highly complimentary. It is only one more example as to how the convictions for mission promotion is gripping the hearts of our people in America for the salvation of the lost in faraway lands, preparing their hearts for the soon coming of Jesus.

CHURCH BREAKS ALL PREVIOUS RECORDS IN HAITI

JAMES M. BEATY, missionary to Haiti, writes: "We had a wonderful Sunday School contest in the Port-au-Prince church. During the six weeks of the contest, we averaged more than 1,000, as compared with an average of 308 for all of last year."

This is great work, Brother Beaty, and let me add the name of Brother LaComb, the pastor of the church. You and your people there have produced a report that is most gratifying, which I am sure the readers of the Evangel will deeply appreciate.—P. H. W.

OVERSEER BRUMMETT OF JAMAICA WRITES

The St. Ann's Parish convention of November 2-5 was a glowing success. Twenty-one were baptized with the Holy Ghost, and there must have been at least 100 converted. It was hard to keep an actual account of the converts, but we were able to count those that received the Holy Ghost.

God is blessing throughout the Island with great spiritual outpourings. Many souls are coming to the Church.

HELPING ON A NEW BUILDING

God has been dealing with me about giving some money to help build a Church of God in some foreign mission field, and I want it to go for that purpose. I should like for you to let me know if I could send it to you and if it would go for that purpose. I want to send \$100. I only have the old age assistance, but I feel like giving it for God and the missions. Please let me hear from you.—Mrs. P. C. A.

NOTE: Mrs. P. C. A., you may rest assured that any contributions designated for buildings, or otherwise, for foreign mission work will go 100 per cent to the place designated, and receipts will be sent from the field, as well as from this office to each donor. All special offerings will be greatly appreciated on the field.

Religious NEWS



(E/P) Merchants all over the nation are again preparing for a big Christmas trade, confidently predicting that this year's sales may exceed those of 1951 by as much as 15 per cent. Chain stores and mail order houses are predicting a record Christmas business. Christmas card salesmen say the postman will have bigger loads to carry than ever before. Retailers of toys, electric appliances and radios have stocked up heavily in expectation that demand will run well ahead of 1950 and 1951. As for the real spirit of Christmas—Christian leaders fear it will be sadly hindered by the growing wave of commercialism.

MISSIONARY FROM JAPAN

Time magazine gave more details on the story of Japanese Navy Captain Mitsuo Fuchida, who is now in America training to become a minister to his own people. EP carried a brief of the story last week. We reprint from Time:

Navy Captain Mitsuo Fuchida was one of Japan's most famous flying officers of World War II. He led the first wave of bombers in the raid on Pearl Harbor, then circled high over Oahu for nearly three hours, directing the attack. He was later wounded at the Battle of Midway and spent the rest of the war as air operations officer at Japanese navy headquarters. At war's end, he went back to his farm near Osaka, sullen and bitter over Japan's defeat.

This week, his bitterness outgrown, ex-Captain Fuchida, 49, was visiting the U. S. and preparing for a new life—as a Christian missionary. His sponsor and future is the Rev. Elmer Sachs, director of Sky Pilots International, a project for getting aviation-minded youth interested in religion as well as aircraft. But the man who indirectly converted him is another airman, ex-Sergeant Jacob DeShazer, a former Doolittle raider who is now working as a Free Methodist missionary in Japan.

DeShazer, an Oregon turkey farmer, who survived three years in Japanese prison camps, was at first as bitter about the Japanese as Fuchida was about the Americans. But DeShazer began to read the Bible during his imprisonment; his attitude changed, and he returned to Japan in 1949 to preach Christianity to his old enemies. Fuchida was intrigued when he read about DeShazer's arrival. He bought a Bible himself. When he read the New Testament story of Christ forgiving his enemies, his old hostility dropped. He became a Christian and wrote several tracts (one ti-

tle: "From Pearl Harbor to Golgotha") about his own experience.

For the next few months Fuchida plans to travel throughout the U. S. with Evangelist Sachs, watching how Sky Pilots International operates. Since Sachs founded his movement in 1945, some 6,000 boys and young men have joined the "squadrons" he establishes in cooperating churches. To get his sky pilot's silver wings a boy must: 1. Attend church or Sunday School for six successive weeks. 2. Memorize ten scriptural verses having to do with salvation. 3. "Accept Christ Jesus as his Saviour." 4. Successfully fly his own model airplane in competition. Gold wings are awarded to everyone who brings a convert into the group.

When Sky Pilot Fuchida goes back to Japan, Evangelist Sachs' hopes to provide him with a helicopter to help in setting up the Japanese organization. Says Sachs: "We're honestly trying to build him up as the apostle Paul of Japan." In International Sky Pilots organization, ex-Captain Fuchida will have the rank of a one-star general.

NOTES FROM THE NEWS

American Jews are being solicited for nearly a quarter billion dollars to finance major construction projects in Palestine. Among these projects is a large pipeline being laid across the rocky Judean hills from Latrun to Jerusalem. The new 24-inch line will provide Jerusalem with all the water the city needs after 2,000 years of chronic thirst.

CANADIAN PREMIER PREACHES OLD-TIME RELIGION

TORONTO, Canada (EP)—The premier of Alberta, Canada, the Hon. E. C. Manning, is on a revival tour and preaching the old-time religion in Eastern Canada. Premier Manning is head of the Social Credit Party of Alberta and director of the national "Back to the Bible" radio broadcast which reaches coast to coast on 14 Canadian stations. He and his radio troupe have just finished revival meetings here in the large St. James United Church. The premier holds closely to the Bible belief, preaches heaven and hell as literal places, warns his audiences against sin and a living devil, compares present world conditions with the time before Noah's flood. He feels world conditions today compare with the conditions at the crisis that preceded the fall of Babylon, or of Persia, or Rome. "Saving our civilization today depends on what this generation does with God," he

said. "We can't save it by passing laws or setting up world organizations." The Social Credit movement which Manning heads recently put a Pentecostal preacher into the Cabinet of Alberta. Contrary to its name, Social Credit has nothing to do with socialism, but is founded on a religious basis. Manning declared that he favored separation of church and state, but added that Christian principles must govern the state. He would not comment on a question as to whether he would become the national leader of the Social Credit Party if it expanded to become a national political party.

TO EXPLORE ST. THOMAS CHURCH IN INDIA

(EP) Plans are under way in Kottayam to explore the last of the seven churches said to have been established by St. Thomas the apostle in Malabar 1,900 years ago. This church is presumed to be at Mikkekal in an inaccessible mountain forest region, once a great trading center. The exploration will be one of the highlights in a series of events taking place from November 16 to 23, under the auspices of Indian Roman Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox Syrian churches in connection with the 1900th anniversary of the arrival of St. Thomas in India.

The launching of a 50,000-unit building program for new immigrants to Israel was announced in Jerusalem this week by the Israeli Cabinet. The plan which is estimated to cost about 50 million Israel pounds will take three months to complete. Funds for the project will be derived from the Development Budget for the next two years. Immigrants now quartered in tents will be transferred to temporary structures of wood or tin so they will not have to spend the winter under canvas, the Cabinet decided.

AMERICAN MISSIONARIES SLAIN IN NEW GUINEA

THE HAGUE (EP)—Reports reaching The Hague today said American missionaries Edward Tritt, 31, of Oshkosh, Wisc., and Walter J. Erikson, 39, of Elgin, Ill., have been murdered in West New Guinea. The reports said police are searching for five suspects but gave no further details.

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UNTO YOU...

(Continued from page 11)

more her Saviour than He is to any person who calls on His name.

II. UNTO ISRAEL: A SON

JESUS was a Son of Israel all His earthly days. Isaiah 9:6, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." His home was Jewish; His training was Jewish; His companions were Jewish; His customs were Jewish; His religion was Jewish; His lineage was Jewish. Jesus was always a Jew, not, of course, of the corrupt worldly, infidelic set which dominated Judaism in His day. He was their enemy and exerted all that was in Him to frustrate them in their crookedness. But the pure religion of Moses (not, again, the addended legalism of the Sadducees and Pharisees) was the teacher that taught of Him, and was perfected (fulfilled) in Him. Jesus was a Son of David, and it was His to sit upon the throne, *King of Israel*.

Jesus was a Son of Israel, and is still recognized as such (but that alone) by the Jews of today. Rabbi Ferdinand M. Isserman, of Temple Israel, St. Louis, says on page 142 of his book *This Is Judaism* (Willett, Clark): "My own thesis is that Jesus was born, lived and died as a Jew, intended to found no new religion, worshipped devoutly in the synagogue, subscribed to its major principles and observed its holy days and ceremonies, was a faithful exponent of the best prophetic religion, and by his courageous death merely exemplified the readiness for martyrdom which has always characterized the faithful Jew." And on that last declaration the Jewish argument breaks down. Christ was the foreordained Lamb—slain from the foundation of the world. It is in that death that we have hope and being. He *was* a Son of the synagogue, but He was also much, much more.

III. UNTO YOU: A SAVIOUR

CHRIST was born a babe unto Mary, a Son unto Israel, and a Saviour unto you. God had us in mind when He allowed His Son to be slain at the hands of the executioners. He was born crucified. That was because we were in need of redemption. While it is true that we received the gospel fully only after He had been rejected by His own nation, it is also true that He was merciful and fatherly to all who came to Him while He lived—Jew or Gentile. There is no doubt that it has always been the plan of God to bring back to His bosom the prodigal Gentile nations. That was always the mind of Jesus.

Your individual blessings are of concern to Christ. It is difficult at times to realize that in a time of world-wide distress God still cares for the lowly individual, but He has sent His Son to let us know that He does, and to let that be our comfort and hope.

In all God's dealings with mankind, He has always kept the individual in view. You are known and considered by Him. He has given all to you: Christmas belongs to you; the Man for whom Christmas stands belongs to you. Christ was born unto us, and is born in us—and we are His!

THE CHRIST OF BETHLEHEM

(Continued from page 9)

and is, of course, illimitable in its reach."—R. D. Hitchcock.

Christ was all He ever claimed to be. Even though He was rejected by His own nation and finally crucified, He arose from the grave, and today He is exalted at the right hand of God. Christ has done and is still doing for men what only God can do. One day soon this same Christ of Bethlehem is coming again in mid air to rapture His people out of this sinful world. What a wonderful future the Christian has to look forward to! Let us stay constantly in fellowship with Christ by keeping our eyes on the goal. Let us work to win others to Him. Give out the glad tidings of great joy so that men and women may escape the evil things that are coming on this earth and live in the presence of God forever.



THE SHEPHERD'S TALE

A. M. Quick

*We are Judean shepherds;
Just now in the fields near by
A sudden light shone round about
From yonder midnight sky.*

*Then came a heavenly angel,
And this is what he said,
That we should find the Christ Child
here
Laid in a manger bed.*

*We heard sweet voices singing;
Not oft to men is given
To hear the angel choirs of God
Singing the songs of heaven!*

*And so we hasten,
Who saw and heard this thing,
To worship Him in Bethlehem
Who is our Saviour King!*

COURT OF PRAISE

NATIVITY

A. M. Quick

*Throughout the night all frosty white
The snow lies on the sleeping fields,
While high and far one silver star
To earth its shining beauty yields.*

*In mansion tall and cabin small
Both rich and poor have shelter found,
Till far and near, or faint or clear,
The sweet-toned bells of Christmas sound.*

*"Now praise His name," the bells proclaim,
"For there is born, oh happy word,
An Infant small in humble stall,
A Saviour which is Christ the Lord!"*

*On southern strand or northern land,
Wherever men would worship Him,
There Christ is born this Christmas morn,
And in our hearts is Bethlehem.*

WINTER HAVEN, Fla.—I praise the Lord for hearing and answering prayer for me. He has healed my body many times. I have 5 children and 3 of them have the Holy Ghost. I have been a member of the Church of God for 9 years, and God has been very precious to me and my family.—Mrs. L. C. BillBrey, Rt. 2, Box 1004.

SHAW, Miss.—I thank the Lord for what He means to me. My twin boys were sick about a week ago, and upon praying for them, God healed their bodies. Pray for my husband.—Mrs. Mary Frances Bailey, Rt. 2, Box 220.

TIFTON, Ga.—I praise the Lord for His great power. God is a wonderful Saviour, and I am happy that He abides with me. I am happy that I learned to serve Him in my youth. He healed me about 3 weeks ago of an ear irritation and other difficulties. Our church at Tifton just had a great revival, with Evangelist Ann Brown. Pray for us here.—Mrs. L. B. Morton.

MILO, Tenn.—I praise the Lord for healing my baby. Pray for her to be healed of a cold.—Mrs. Callie Harris.

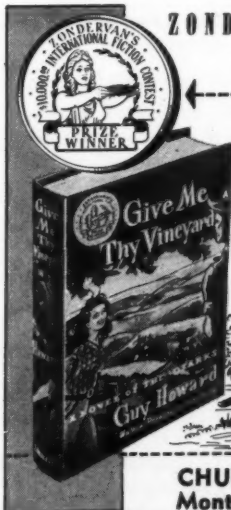
REPORTS

Consul, Saskatchewan, Canada.—On October 5 we had an all-day Thanksgiving service in the Church of God in Consul, and we praise the Lord for a wonderful time of blessing. We had as our speakers for the day the Rev. James A. Stephens, overseer for Western Canada, and Rev. Darrell Lindsay, president of the International Bible College, Estevan, Saskatchewan, Canada. These two brothers very ably, by the Lord's help, broke to us the Bread of Life, and we enjoyed their messages.

The church was decorated with all manner of fruits, vegetables, flowers, grains, grasses, etc., and everything spoke to us of the bountiful hand of the Lord upon us. We thank Him for the good things we have received this past year, but most of all for the salvation we enjoy and that He purchased for us at Calvary. This is the marvel for which we shall never cease to praise Him.

Meals were served throughout the day in the basement of the church. These things were prepared by the ladies of the church and were enjoyed by everyone present.

During the day offerings were received for the Bible College and the radio program. Over \$70 was received for the "Church of God on the Air," heard over the Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Radio Station, and over \$60 was received for the International Bible College. We do praise the Lord for His blessings, and we return thanks to everyone who made the day one to be remembered in the Consul Church of God.—The Pastor, Charles Evans.



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 Take My Hand, Precious Lord
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 This Man, Jesus
 What Could I Do If It Wasn't for the Lord
 What the Good Lord's Done for Me
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 You Sho Do Need Him Now

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 He Knows Just How Much You Can Bear
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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS! *From California to Maine and from Michigan to Florida people are all thinking of the most glorious event in the history of mankind. That event being the birth of Jesus Christ. I, too, can speak the sentiment of all employees of the Publishing House and say Christmas Greetings to all of you. We trust you will have the happiest Christmas you have ever been privileged to have. As we enjoy this Christmas season, let us not forget our service men who are fighting and serving our Country.*

May God bless each of you is our prayer.

*Cecil Bridges, Business Manager
Church of God Publishing House Employees*

SEASON'S GREETINGS

May He whose birth we celebrate during the Christmas season bring to each of you peace and joy, and may the coming year find His peace spread throughout the world.

**LEE COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION,
FACULTY, AND STAFF**

R. Leonard Carroll, President.

GREETINGS at this Christmas tide to commemorate a birth when God so freely gave His Son to die for men of earth.

'No room! No room! within the inn; was the keepers cry; thus He was turned away and left to suffer bleed and die.

The drama of His birth, life, death and resurrection rare gives to man on earth a mission the gospel to declare.

So at this Christmastime we of the missions department share with you, our many friends, the blessings of acceptance in Him that arise from His first coming, and the confident expectation of His soon coming again.

*Paul H. Walker,
Executive Missions Secretary
Mercedes Mixon, Bookkeeper
Alice Pullin, Translator
Ruth Kinsolving, Secretary*

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The Youth Division of the Church wishes to take this opportunity of extending to each of you a warm and friendly Christmas greeting!

We are indeed thankful that we have received the Christ of Bethlehem in our hearts, whose birth we celebrate at this season; that He lives in our hearts now and we have the privilege of promoting Christ through the youth of our church.

Had it not been for the day the Lord had such great love for the salvation of the world and gave His only Son for our redemption we would be of all men most miserable. As we sing at this season, "Faith of Our Fathers," "Joy to The World," "Silent Night," "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," our hearts cry out in thankfulness for the wonderful peace and gladness brought to us by the Christ Child.

It is the sincere desire of the staff of the Youth Department to promote the cause of Christ to our youth and bring about a greater Christian fellowship and leadership in the world.

*Ray Hughes, General S. S. and Youth Director
Jeanette Chesser, Secretary*

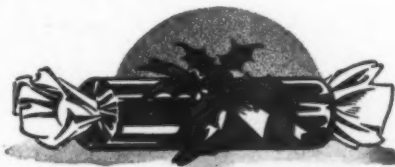
The Music Department takes this opportunity to wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Keep singing!

*Vep Ellis, Music Editor
Joyce McCoy, Secretary*

OUR CHRISTMAS WISH

The Editorial Department greets the readers of all our publications during this blessed season, and wishes for all a joyous and Christ-centered Christmas, and a New Year filled with challenge to a greater and more devoted Christian life. In Christian love,

*Charles W. Conn, Editor-in-Chief
Lewis J. Willis, The LIGHTED PATHWAY
Irene Wales, Primary Department
Geneva Carroll, Junior Department
Chloe Stewart, Artist
Margie M. Mixon, Secretary
Esther Eubanks, Secretary*



Peace On Earth



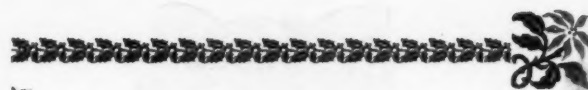
Good Will Toward Men

Silent

Night!

Holy

Night!



*Silent night! holy night!
All is calm, all is bright;
Round yon virgin mother and Child,
Holy Infant so tender and mild;
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night! holy night!
Darkness flies, all is light;
Shepherds bear the angels sing:
"Alleluia! hail the King!
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born."*

*Silent night! holy night!
Guiding Star, lend thy light!
See the eastern wise men bring
Gifts and homage to our King!
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.*

*Silent night! holy night!
Wondrous Star, lend thy light!
With the angels let us sing
Alleluia to our King!
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.*





